

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 014805 TOSEC 010087

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TU, GR, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: YOUR VISIT TO ANKARA AND ATHENS

1. I WISH TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION ANKARA 331 AND
ATHENS 426 WHICH DESCRIBED THE CONVERSATIONS LAST WEEKEND
BETWEEN A GROUP OF SENATORS (WILLIAMS, STEVENS, CANNON,
RIBICOFF AND HOLLINGS) AND PRIME MINISTERS ECEVIT AND
CARAMANLIS. WHILE ECEVIT AND CARAMANLIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
EMPHASIZE DIFFERENT POINTS IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU,
THESE CABLES REFLECT THEIR CURRENT THINKING ON RELATIONS
WITH THE US, CYPRUS, AND THE AEGEAN.

2. I HAD A USEFUL BREAKFAST MEETING WITH JOHN
BRADEMAs WHO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AND
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SUPPORT FOR YOUR UPCOMING VISITS TO TURKEY AND GREECE.
HE ALSO ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT ECEVIT REFLECTING
SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT HIS INITIATIVES MIGHT HAVE
ON THE MANY ISSUES AT PLAY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
BRADEMAs SAID HE HOPED THAT HE, PAUL SARBANES AND OTHERS
WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU ON YOUR RETURN.

3. WE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK BRIEFLY WITH SENATOR RIBICOFF JANUARY 18 WHO WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH BOTH ECEVIT AND CARAMANLIS.

RIBICOFF FEELS THAT BOTH SIDES WANT TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFERENCES AND THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP. RIBICOFF ALSO DISCUSSED WITH PAPALIGOURAS AN EARLY, QUIET DISCUSSION BETWEEN PAPALIGOURAS AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN AS A PRUDENT FIRST STEP TOWARDS AN ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS SUMMIT.

4. CARAMANLIS HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WALDHEIM AND THE SENATORS BUT INDICATED THAT HE RESPECTS ECEVIT AND IS PREPARED TO BELIEVE THAT ECEVIT IS SERIOUS IN WANTING TO SETTLE GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES, AND IS LOOKING FOR PROOF. I BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL GREEK AND CYPRIOT ATTITUDE IS ACTUALLY HARDENING AGAINST TURKISH INITIATIVES. THEY FEAR ANY SIGN OF "PROGRESS" WILL BE USED AS A RATIONALE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. THE GREEKS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TURKISH FLEXIBILITY, NOT BASE THEIR POLICIES ON US CONGRESSIONAL POLITICS.

5. ECEVIT HAS NOT FORMALLY ENDORSED THE DCA (WHICH WAS A DEMIREL DOCUMENT). IF HE HAS ANY INCLINATION TO CONSIDER SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, WE SHOULD EXAMINE ANY IDEAS.

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FOR EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT LIFT THE EMBARGO AND GIVE MORE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE, BUT AVOID A FOUR-YEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. HOWEVER, THE TURKISH MILITARY WILL PROBABLY PUSH FOR THE DCA AS IT IS AND MOST TURKS REGARD THE DCA AS THE TOUCHSTONE OF A SOUND US-TURKEY RELATIONSHIP.

6. ECEVIT IS RIGHT TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE. BUT THE REAL WORLD WE NEED CONCRETE STEPS TO START DEFUSING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THE RESOLUTION OF THE MISSING PERSONS ISSUE WOULD HELP AVOID A NASTY DEBATE AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY AND ALSO RESOLVE A REAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM.

7. WE ARE OF COURSE ALL PLEASED THAT ECEVIT IS PLANNING NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS. WALDHEIM HAS AGREED TO MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT THESE ARE A REASONABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. WILL THE TURKS SOUND HIM OUT FIRST? WHAT IF WALDHEIM REJECTS THEM? COULD WE BE OF HELP HERE? I DOUBT THAT A TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL THAT DOES NOT LET GREEK CYPRIOTS RETURN TO VAROSHA (NEW FAMAGUSTA) WILL BE VIEWED AS REASONABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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